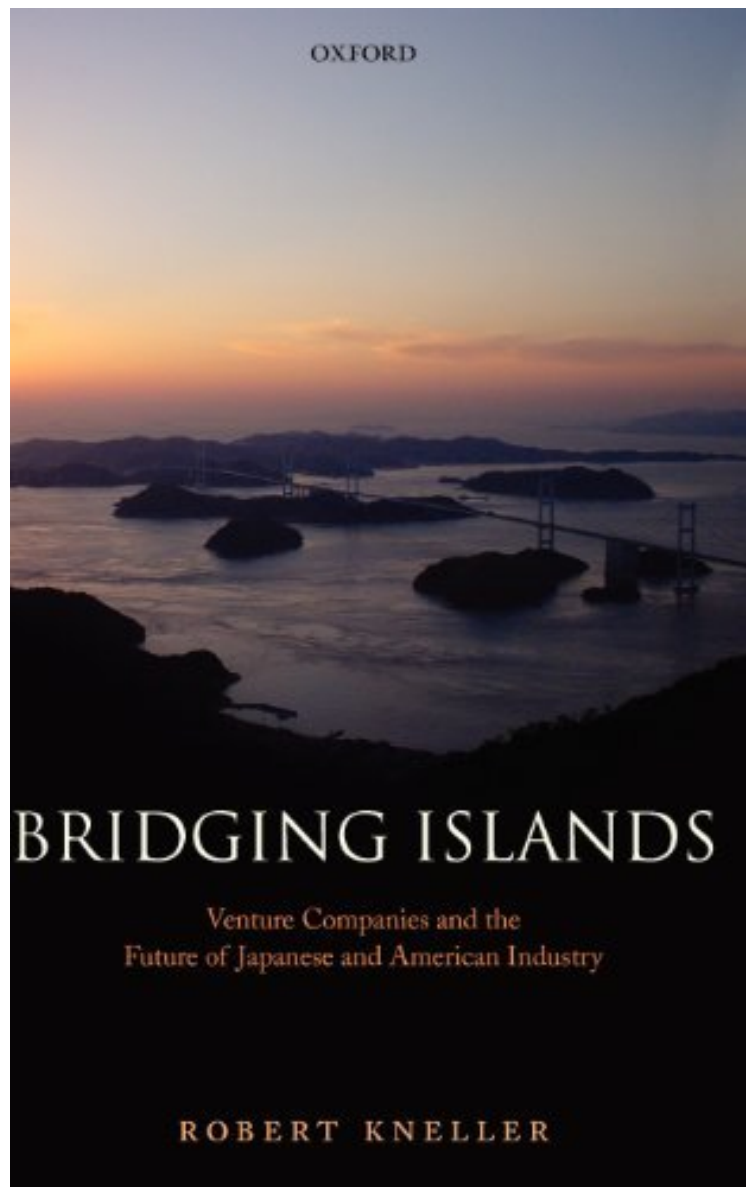


(Download) Bridging Islands: Venture Companies and the Future of Japanese and American Industry

Bridging Islands: Venture Companies and the Future of Japanese and American Industry

Robert Kneller

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Robert Kneller : Bridging Islands: Venture Companies and the Future of Japanese and American Industry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bridging Islands: Venture Companies and the Future of Japanese and American Industry:

The innovative strength of the world's two largest economies, the United States and Japan, are based on two very different forms of industrial and social organization. For the United States, venture companies play a key role in technical and economic progress, while in Japan they have only a very minor role. In *Bridging Islands*, Robert Kneller argues that without vibrant new high technology companies, Japanese industry will decline inexorably. At the same time, if the favorable yet delicate environment in America is undermined, America will face collapse of its innovative and economic strength. Japan has done much to improve its environment for high technology ventures. It has some promising new high technology companies and gradually increasing numbers of entrepreneurial scientists and managers. But they continue to swim against the current. One reason is that large, established companies dominate high technology fields and pursue an autarkic innovation strategy-relying on research in-house, in affiliated companies, or in universities. Another reason is that these same large companies still have preferential access to university discoveries. Thus, high technology ventures are deprived of niches in which to grow, skilled personnel, and their natural customer base. In the field of university-industry relations, steps can still be taken to improve the environment for high technology ventures-steps that would probably also increase the quality of university science. The American-Japanese innovation dichotomy represents a broader dichotomy between so-called liberal and controlled market economies. The lessons from these two countries' experiences are applicable to many industrialized countries, and to developing countries shaping their innovation systems. *Bridging Islands* is a detailed examination of the key role of venture companies in national technical and economic success, with important implications for academics, researchers, industry specialists, and policy-makers.

About the Author Robert Kneller has been studying venture companies, innovation and university-industry cooperation in Japan for nine years, beginning in 1997 as an Abe Fellow and since 1998 as Professor in the University of Tokyo's Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST). RCAST is an interdisciplinary science and engineering research center and Prof. Kneller is in the Department of Intellectual Property. Prior to coming to Japan, Dr. Kneller worked in the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), first in cancer epidemiology, then science policy, and then technology transfer to commercialize NIH discoveries. He has also worked in China and speaks Japanese, Chinese, French and Russian in addition to English. Dr. Kneller received a B.A. in physics from Swarthmore College, a J.D. in law from Harvard Law School, an M.D. in medicine from Mayo Medical School, and a Masters of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.